

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

The Examiner's cooperation in reviewing a draft of claim 13 and in discussing the draft with Ian Volek, Reg. No. 59,240, on March 30, 2011, is respectfully acknowledged. Claim 13 has been amended as discussed with the Examiner to further distinguish the claimed present invention from the cited references.

THE CLAIM AMENDMENT

Claim 13 has been amended to clarify that one of the two axially spaced spur gears is rigidly secured to the common spindle, and the other one of the two axially spaced spur gears is supported on the common spindle via a wringing fit for self alignment with the rigidly secured spur gear, thereby evenly sharing a load between the two axially spaced spur gears, by displacement of the wring-fitted spur gear relative to the common spindle during operation of the hand-held power nut runner. See, for example, the last paragraph on page 3 of the specification.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 13-16 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 4,286,458 ("Alexander"), USP 3,245,279 ("Baker"), and USP 4,095,323 ("Silvestri"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims set forth above.

Amended independent claim 13 recites that one of the two axially spaced spur gears is rigidly secured to the common spindle, and the other one of the two axially spaced spur gears is supported on the common spindle via a wringing fit for self alignment with the rigidly secured spur gear, thereby evenly sharing a load between the two axially spaced spur gears, by displacement of the wring-fitted spur gear relative to the common spindle during operation of the hand-held power nut runner.

Thus, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 13, the "wringing fit" of one of the two axially spaced spur gears allows displacement of the wring-fitted spur gear relative to the common spindle during operation of the hand-held power nut runner. Self-alignment can therefore be achieved during operation.

By contrast, Silvestri (which has been cited with respect to the last paragraph of claim 13) discloses that a gear is only initially fitted by "interference fit" and then is welded. (Column 2, lines 59-62. See also the beginning of column 3,

which describes a rigid structure involving a relatively complicated assembly process.) The end result in Silvestri is thus a structure in which no displacement or self-alignment is possible during operation. See pages 3-6 of the Response filed on March 3, 2011.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Silvestri were combinable with Alexander and Baker, the structure recited in amended independent claim 13 still would not be achieved or rendered obvious. And it is respectfully submitted, therefore, that amended independent claim 13 and claims 14-16 depending therefrom clearly patentably distinguish over Alexander, Baker, and Silvestri under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,
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